

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Geater Machining & Mfg

Iowa Center for Industrial Research and Service

Productivity Improvement at Greater Machining and Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Geater Machining and Manufacturing Company is located in Independence, Iowa and employs 140 people. Founded in 1962, the company supplies precision machining, finishing, sheet metal fabrication, assembly and secondary operations for aerospace, electronics, and other high-tech companies.

Situation:

Greater Machining & Manufacturing wanted to improve their lead time and reduce late shipments, as well as improve the layout of their machining department. The company needed expertise in the analysis of current capacity capabilities to determine future possibilities and facility layout and contacted the Iowa Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

CIRAS provided training and facilitation, enabling Greater Machining & Manufacturing to identify where increased productivity could lead to increased profits. CIRAS encouraged the company to focus on getting more production within the existing capacity limitations. An analysis of the current machining department facility and equipment was completed and areas of improvement identified by the team. A new department layout was created, and key equipment and information systems investments were identified.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$1.5 million.
- * Realized \$300,000 in cost savings.
- * Invested \$200,000 in plant equipment and workforce practices.

Testimonial:

"CIRAS helped us do a complete reorganizational layout of our machining department in order to create a more efficient workflow and make better use of our current space."

Joe Meier, Plant Manager □